Abstract

Ablation of the pulmonary veins causes damage to the tissue which may affect the viability of the tissue. By placing a stent, a vascular endoprosthesis, within a target pulmonary vein it is possible to protect the functionality of the veins after the ablation procedure. Placement of a stent, endoprosthesis or mere circuit interrupting structure into a target pulmonary vein, without ablation, prevents aberrant electrical activity in the pulmonary veins from interfering with the electrical activity of the left atrium. The stent, endoprosthesis or circuit interrupting structure may also be coated or comprised of a drug-eluting compound, loaded with a drug which inhibits arrhythmia.